

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendment is requested. With entry of this amendment, claims 1, 11-15, and 19-27 are now in the case. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 16-18 have been canceled. Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 have been withdrawn by the examiner.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims to cancelled subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

The Office Action states, as did the first Office Action, that the same amino acid sequence is identified by different sequence identifiers, SEQ ID NOs:5 and 6, and that Rule 1.821 (c) requires a sequence identifier for each sequence. As explained in Applicant's response to the first Office Action, the difference between SEQ ID NOs:5 and 6 is that SEQ ID NO:6 has an amidation at position 23. Thus, in SEQ ID NO:5 the amino acid at position 23 is a valine, without any modifications. In SEQ ID NO:6, however, the amino acid at position 23 is also a valine, but it is required to have an amidation. Therefore, SEQ ID NO:5 is a separate sequence from SEQ ID NO:6. As required by Rule 1.821(c), each sequence has a separate sequence identifier.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement. The polypeptides of the claims correlating to Group I are related because they represent fragments of a longer polypeptide, i.e., the polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

For clarification:

the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:4 correspond to amino acids 52 to 75 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2;

the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:9 correspond to amino acids 76 to 100 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2;

the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:14 correspond to amino acids 101 to 117 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2;

the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:20 correspond to amino acids 76 to 85 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2; and

the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:25 correspond to amino acids 86 to 98 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

Additionally, as is indicated in the specification, the polypeptide sequences of SEQ ID NO:s 5 and 6 are modifications of the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4; the polypeptide sequences of SEQ ID NO:s 10 and 11 are modifications of the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:9; the polypeptide sequences of SEQ ID NO:s 15, 16, and 17 are modifications of the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:14; the polypeptide sequences of SEQ ID NO:s 21 and 22 are modifications of the

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polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:20; and, the polypeptide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 26 is a modification of the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25.

The correlation between the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:4, the elected species of the present application, and the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2 is shown, for example, by the correlation of the polypeptide of claim 12 ("...wherein the amino acid sequence is the amino acid sequence from residue 52 to residue 75 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.") and the polypeptide of claim 11 ("...wherein the amino acid sequence is the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:4.") from which claim 12 depends. Similar claim sets can be submitted for the polypeptides corresponding to all of the polypeptides of Group I: SEQ ID NO:9 (original claim 3), SEQ ID NO:14 (original claim 5), SEQ ID NO:20 (original claims 7), and SEQ ID NO:25 (original claim 9). As such, they can be searched and examined simultaneously without placing undue burden on the Examiner. Therefore, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6752.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosures:

Petition and Fee for Extension of Time (in duplicate)
Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)
Notice of Appeal
Postcard